**Year 9 RE**

***Why should we as Catholics make provision for/be good to people from other countries who seek asylum?***

1. **THE BIBLE**

Numerous Bible passages describe how God wants us to treat refugees -the strangers, the poor, the aliens, and the sojourners in our midst. Seven key principles describe God's abiding concern for refugees.

Choose one example from each section (A-G) and, next to it, write either the title of each story (or another detail from it) to which these stories refer. Use <http://www.biblegateway.com/> to look up each story (you can copy and paste the Bible reference in most cases).

1. **God loves, protects, and provides for refugees.**

* He watches over them.   
  Ps. 146:9.
* He provides refuge for them, a shelter from the storm, and shade from the heat. Ps. 9:9, Is.25:4.
* He shows no partiality to natives of a country. Refugees and natives have equal status is His sight.   
  Deut. 10:16-19, Num.15:16.
* He defends their cause, providing food and clothing for them.   
  Deut. 10:16-19.
* Jesus announced that the essence of his ministry was to help and serve people in refugee-like situations.   
  Luke 4:16-2

1. **God expects his people to love refugees and to give freely of their resources to help them.**

* Love refugees as you love yourselves.   
  Lev. 19:34, Deut 10:16-19.
* Treat refugees fairly and stand up for them when others mistreat them.   
  Ps. 82:4, Ex. 22:21, Lev. 19:33, Zech. 7:9-10, Deut. 23:15.
* Share your food, clothing, and shelter with them.   
  Is. 58:6-11, Lk. 3:10, Mt. 25:31-46.
* Invite them into your homes.   
  Heb. 13:2. Is. 58:6-11, Luke 14:12-13.
* Set aside part of your income to help them.  
  Lev. 19:10, 23:22, Deut. 24:19-21, 14:28-29, 26:12, Gal. 2:10, Ja. 1:27.
* Sell your possessions to help them if need be.   
  Lk. 12:33, Mt.19:21.
* Encourage them.   
  Is. 1:17.

1. **God views our compassionate treatment of refugees as a fundamental indicator  
      of true Christianity.**

* When believers stand before Him on judgment day He will ask them how they treated refugees.   
  Luke 14:12-13, Matthew 25:31-46.

1. **God expects our nations to rescue refugees, to take them in, and to treat   
        them just like her native born.**

* Rescue refugees from persecuting nations.  
  Is. 16:3-5.
* Give shelter to them from their destroyers.   
  Is. 16:3-5.
* Never return refugees to their oppressors. Let them live with you.   
  Deut. 23:15.
* Give them a choice as to where they can live among you.   
  Deut. 23:15.
* Treat refugees just like you do your own citizens through your laws and regulations. Treat them fairly.   
  Lev. 19:34, 24:22, Num. 15:16.
* Set aside part of your income to help them.   
  Deut. 14:28-29, 26:12

1. **God promises to bless the family and nation who take care of refugees.**

* He blesses them and the work of their hands.   
  Deut. 24:19-21.
* He answers their prayer.   
  Is. 58:6-11.
* His glory is their rear guard.   
  Ps. 41:1-3, Is. 58:6-11.
* He strengthens them physically.   
  Is. 58:6-11, Ps. 41:1-3.
* He satisfies their needs.   
  Prov. 28:27, Is. 58:6-11.
* He protects them.   
  Ps. 41:1-3.
* He will repay them at the resurrection of the righteous.   
  Lk. 14:12-13, Mt. 25:31-46

1. **God promises to curse the nation and people who mistreat refugees.**

* The judgment and curse of the Lord is on a nation that withholds justice from the refugee.   
  Deut. 27:19, 24:17, Ez.22:9f, Mal 3:5, Ez. 16:49f
* The Lord will not answer their prayers.   
  Pr. 21:13
* He who closes his/hers ears to refugees will receive many curses.   
  Pr. 28:27
* You show contempt toward God if you oppress the poor.   
  Pr. 10:31.
* A nation's right to its land is predicated upon treating refugees well.   
  Jer. 5:5-7

1. **God views our care for refugees as a concrete expression of love and service to   
      him.**

* When we take care of refugees, we take care of the Lord.   
  Mt. 25.

1. **THE WHOLE POINT OF RELIGION**